

The Federal Plan for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

FISCAL YEAR 2006

FEDERAL COORDINATOR
FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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PREFACE

Since 1965, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) has developed a Federal Plan that articulates the provision of meteorological services and the support for meteorological and related research by agencies of the Federal government. OFCM's 2006 Federal Plan provides Congress and the Executive Branch with a comprehensive compilation of proposed programs for fiscal year (FY) 2006 and a review of agency programs in FY 2005. The Federal Plan's narratives, timelines, and schedules are current as of August 2005.

The Federal Plan consists of an Executive Summary, three sections, and Appendices. The Executive Summary, which is written as a concise, stand-alone report, provides a high-level view of the Federal resources dedicated to meteorological programs and the achievements of those programs.

This year's feature article (Section 1) examines the threats that wildland fires pose to life and property. Threats to the safety of residents and firefighters are paramount, followed by the direct destruction of property by these often swift-moving blazes. The potential urban environmental impacts of wildland fires include not only increased urban air pollution and health impacts due to smoke particles, but also possible degraded water quality through the release of burned debris into public water sources. These fires also hamper local transportation on the ground and in the air, thereby affecting public safety and commerce. Wildland fire is therefore a hazard whose impacts cut across all five of the priority areas identified during the *2004 User Forum on Urban Meteorology*, jointly sponsored by OFCM and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate. These focus areas are severe weather, homeland security (including emergency preparedness and response), air and water quality, and climate-related conditions. This year's feature article summarizes the causes of wildland fires, describes their impacts on urban communities, reviews some activities undertaken by Federal agencies to minimize the impacts, and recommends next steps to address these impacts effectively.

Section 2 of the Federal Plan summarizes the resources requested in the President's FY 2006 Budget, compared with the resources appropriated by Congress for FY 2005. Section 3 contains departmental and agency narratives on programs for providing meteorological services and supporting research and development. It also describes relevant research funded by the National Science Foundation.

Appendix A describes the OFCM's coordination, program, and planning activities. Appendix B addresses the World Meteorological Organization's World Weather Program. Appendix C lists the feature articles published in previous Federal Plans. The acronyms and abbreviations used throughout this year's Federal Plan are defined in Appendix D. The inside front cover lists the current members of the Federal and Interdepartmental Committees for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, which provide guidance and support for OFCM activities. The inside back cover diagrams the infrastructure through which the OFCM performs its coordinating mission.



Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

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